

Species V, including Figs. 17 and 18;

Species VI, including Fig. 19; and

Species VII, including Fig. 20.

The Examiner has requested that Applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has admitted current claim 1 is generic to all species.

In connection with the present application, Applicants hereby elect Species II, including Figs. 7a to 13 for prosecution in connection with the present application. Claims 1 (generic), 3-5, 12 (as it is dependent upon claims 1 and 3), 16-18 (as they are dependent on claims 1 and 3) and 19-22 are readable upon the Figures of the elected species. Accordingly, prosecution on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Further, upon the Examiner finding that independent generic claim 1 is allowable, Applicants respectfully request allowance of each of claims 1-22 in connection with the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicants note that several Information Disclosure Statements have been filed in connection with the present application, including an Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 6, 2002; an Information Disclosure Statement filed September 17, 2001; an Information Disclosure Statement filed November 28, 2001; an Information Disclosure Statement filed October 16, 2001; and an Information Disclosure Statement filed April 2, 2001 with the filing of the present application. **Consideration of each of the documents submitted in connection with the aforementioned Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested in response to an issuance of an Office Action or Notice of Allowance in connection with the**

present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return initialed PTO-1449 forms indicating his consideration of all documents submitted in the aforementioned Information Disclosure Statements.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's Restriction Requirement and allowance of each of claims 1-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

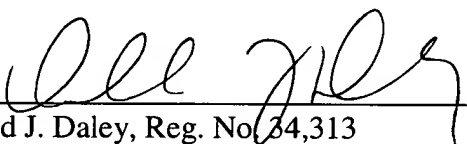
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 390-3030